

BOOK REVIEWS



INTRODUCTION OF INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES, INCLUDING THEIR CAUSE AND MANNER OF TRANSMISSION.—By Willard Langfeld, A.B., M.B., (Johns Hopkins) Professor of Bacteriology and Clinical Medicine, John A. Creighton Medical College, Omaha; Visiting Physician, St. Joseph's and Douglas County Hospitals, and Bacteriologist, the Omaha City Board of Health. With an Introduction by Lewellys F. Barker, Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University. With Thirty-three Illustrations. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

In the present volume we have a book which is quite novel in the treatment of the subject "Infectious Diseases." The book combines with an ordinary text book on the subject as indicated in the title of the book an important addition in the chapter on "Bacteriology"—another on "Parasites" and a third—"The Collection and Examination of Secretions and Excretions," the whole making an important addition to nursing literature. The nursing proper in infectious diseases the author does not at all concern himself with, leaving that part of the subject to the department of clinic teaching where it properly belongs. The book confines itself to the teaching of the causes of disease-infection, the avenues of exit of infectious diseases and parasites from the body, the manner in which infectious disease agents enter the body—disinfectants and disinfection, prophylaxis—predisposing or contributing causes, etc., etc. The reasons why the nurse besides being "medical assistant to the doctor" must also be a sanitarian in the strictest sense, is made plain to the reader as is also the need for her being equipped with specific information and an eternal vigilance in the use of the same. The style is particularly pleasing, as simple as the subject permits and almost free from the technical expressions which bewilder the uninitiated.

TALKS TO FIRST YEAR NURSES. By Alfred Hawes, M.D. Whitcomb & Barrows, Boston.

This volume is designed for the instruction of first year nurses;—at least so the author announces in a brief fore-word of introduction. Just why the book has been written, except to net for its author the re-

ceipts which a nursing text book brings, one hardly understands. It is of little use for reference, none whatever as a text book. First year nurses are not usually required to assume charge of the operating room—they are not as a rule given the nursing of laparotomies except under supervision; nor do first year nurses often find themselves occupied with the cares of obstetrical nursing. Should any first year nurse find herself launched forth on any emergent case in these departments and turn confidently to Dr. Hawes' manual to help her out of her difficulties the chances are that she would find herself "beautifully left," as vulgar parlance hath it.

The whole book is so brief—the subjects so lightly touched upon, as to be unintelligible to one who has not already some knowledge of them; and to such, absolutely useless, as it contains nothing untouched by other writers. Anatomy in twelve pages with similar flying glimpses of the physiological subjects—the organs of the body, and their functions; a passing hail to materia medica, bacteria, anæsthetics, laparotomies and obstetrics—these sum up the book which is well written and put forth in very attractive style. The question is why offer the book to nurses who would never be deluded into the belief that they had gained a knowledge of any of the subjects offered therein.

The author aims to prevent confusion in the mind of the first year nurse to whom a multitude of new subjects is often bewildering—unfortunately he has not given enough subject matter to set the mind at rest; one wants more or nothing at all.

LATERAL CURVATURE OF THE SPINE AND ROUND SHOULDERS. By Robert W. Lovett, M.D., Associate Surgeon to the Children's Hospital, Boston; Surgeon to the Infants' Hospital; Instructor in Orthopedic Surgery, Harvard Medical School; Member of the American Orthopedic Association; Korrespondierende Mitglieder Der Deutschen Gesellschaft Für Orthopädische Chirurgie. With 154 Illustrations. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

The field of orthopedic surgery possesses peculiar interest to the nurse,—for it is here that she finds some of her best opportunities of proving herself the efficient co-worker with the surgeon as well as his indispensable assistant. Here too she finds her patient most dependent upon her for the alleviations to a tedious and often uncomfortable treatment or it may be that to the nurse is entrusted the gymnastic exercises which so often form an important feature in the case. Though